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sciences and new improvements in the arts. * * * * In conducting the literary department of our Journal," the Editor remarks in another place (cf. Maxwell's *Rice,* p. 134), "we shall allow ourselves very great latitude. We have adopted this general term, indeed, because no better occurred, but the truth is, we intend that our Magazine shall occasionally serve as a vehicle of valuable essays on Agriculture, Inland Navigation, the construction of Roads, the great concern of Schools and whatever our correspondence will furnish for the promotion of Internal Improvement. We believe that the enterprising people of this country only want information on this subject to stir them up to a degree of zeal and activity, which has never yet been witnessed among us. In this view, we not only freely offer our pages for communications of this kind, but we earnestly entreat those who possess knowledge to impart it for the benefit of their country."

WILLS OF THE MINGE FAMILY.

Among the papers in a chancery suit filed in the clerk's office at Williamsburg are copies of the following wills, now lost from the records of Charles City county during the war 1861-1865:

IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN! I George Minge of the Parish of Westover in the County of Charles City being sick and weak but of sound and perfect memory do make constitute and ordain this Writing to be my last Will and Testament. Imprimis I lend unto my dear and well beloved Wife Mary Minge the following male and female Slaves to wit. Will, Jim, Buky, Nancy together with their future increase of the said females, my Womans Saddle together with the one half of my Household and Kitchen furniture my plantation utensils, and Stocks of Horses, Cows, Sheep and Hogs, likewise the one half of the crop of every kind left at my decease, to her my said Wife during her natural life.

Item, I lend unto my Daughter Sarah Walker, relict of Freeman Walker of the said County of Charles City all the rest and residue of my Slaves and Stocks of every kind, likewise the remaining half of my crop of every sort during her natural life, and if she should survive my Wife in that Case, I also lend her all and every the estate bequeathed to my Wife in the preceding clauses of this my will, to her my said Daughter during her natural life

Item, After the decease of my Wife and Daughter as aforesaid, I give and bequeath the whole of my estate of what kind soever to be equally divided between all my Daughters Children that may be living at the decease of my said Daughter to them and their heirs for ever.

Item, it is my will and meaning that if there should be any ready money in the house or out on interest at my Death, it may be applied to the discharge of my just debts and funeral expenses if sufficient for the purpose, but if not I desire the deficiency to be made good by my said wife and Daughter out of the estate before given to them or should there be any Overplus in that case I give such overplus to my said wife and Daughter to be equally divided between them.

Item, it is my desire that my estate may not be appraised.

Lastly I nominate, constitute, and appoint Henry Southall and Wyatt Walker whole and sole executors of this my last will and Testament, revoking and making void all wills by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the nineteenth day of September one thousand seven hundred and eight-one. Geo: Minge (Seal).

Signed, Sealed, published and
declared by the said George Minge
to be his last will and testament
in presence of
John Colgin, Daniel Creighton.

A codicil to my will made this 4th day of December One

thousand seven hundred and eight-one: Whereas at the time of my making my said will bearing date the nineteenth day of September 1781 two of my slaves being with the British Army, and having no expectation of recovering the said negroes to wit George and John at that time, since which the said George, and John hath returned home.

Item I lend to my loving wife Mary Minge during Her natural life my negro Boy John and at her death to go to my daughter Sarah Walker as I have directed in my will above, and to be devised at the death of my said daughter, as I have directed all that part of the estate before given her

Item I lend unto my daughter Sarah Walker during her natural life my negro Boy George and at her death to be divided (devised?) in the same manner as the slave before given her And lastly I nominate and appoint my friend Furnea Southall an executor to my last will and testament with the executors before mentioned. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand affixed my seal this day and year above written.

Geo: Minge (Seal).

Signed, Sealed published and
declared in presence of
Bernard Major
Ann E. Willcox

At a Court held for Charles City County the 2d day of January 1782.

The aforewritten last will and testament of George Minge deceased was in open Court proved by the Oaths of John Colgin and Daniel Creighton witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded, a Codicil to the said Will was also proved by the oath of Bernard Major a witness thereto and likewise ordered to be recorded, and are truly recorded. And upon the motion of Furnea Southall one of the executors therein named who made oath thereto according to law, certificate is granted him for obtaining a probate Thereof in due form he giving security; where-

upon he, together with William Christian, Edmond Christian and Henry Duke, his Securities, entered into and acknowledged their bond in the penalty of fifteen hundred thousand pounds current money, with such condition as the law in this case directs.

Teste James New Cl. Cur.
A COPY Teste Ro: Munford D. C.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. I David Minge of the parish of Westover & County of Charles City being in sound health and perfect sense and memory, thanks be to almighty God for it, but calling to mind the uncertainty of this mortal life, do make & ordain this to be my last will and testament. Imprimis, I recommend my soul into the hands of its unerring Creator, hoping thro' the merits of the blessed Jesus to receive full pardon and remission of all my sins, and a joyful resurrection to eternal life. My body I desire may be interred in the burying place of our family in Martins Brandon parish in Prince George County, and as to what worldly estate it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give and dispose of the same in the following manner.

Item I give and bequeath to each of my daughters Rebecca Jones Minge and Anne Shields Minge and their heirs forever, the sum of five thousand pounds current money, to be paid out of the rents and profits of my estate in Halifax County in North Carolina, and paid them as they come of age or marry respectively, which estate I have leased to Charles Gilmour and William Henry of the County of Brunswick, for ten years next ensuing in consideration of the sum of one thousand pounds p^{r} annum and during the minority or unmarried state of my daughters aforesaid I give (*sic*) my executors hereafter named may receive the said rents and profits as they become due, and place the same to interest upon proper security and that such interest be applied towards the maintenance and education of my said daughters until they come of age or marry as aforesaid, and in case this should prove insufficient for that purpose I desire the deficiency may

be made good out of the other estate I also give and bequeath to my said daughter Rebecca one male and one female negro slave as near her own age as may be, and such as my wife shall hereafter make choice of. I also give her my negro Girl Critty after the death of my wife, to her my said daughter and her heirs forever, and to my daughter Anne I give and bequeath my negro woman Kate and her daughter Clementine to her and her heirs forever.

Item I lend to my dear and much esteem'd wife Christiana Minge all the residue of my estate both real and personal until my eldest son John arrives to the age of twenty one years, in case she lives my widow until that period, to be kept together for the payment of just debts and her support and the maintenance and education of all my children and after my son John comes of age as aforesaid, or in case my said wife should marry, I then lend her all my lands in Wyanoke including Kittiwan, Harvey's, Miles's, Collier's and other lands I may have adjoining thereto, together with twenty negro slaves such as she shall then choose, my Chariot and four horses, and the drivers Billy and Charles, or in case they die before, her choice of two others out of the residue of my slaves, four work horses, one moiety of all my stocks of Cattle, hogs and sheep, then in being, and the whole or any part of my household furniture, plantation utensils, and kitchen furniture, as she shall think proper during her natural life.

Item, I give and bequeath unto my son George Hunt Minge, when my son John comes to the age of twenty one years, my land and plantation in this County called the Rowe and all my lands in the State of North Carolina, also the stocks of every kind, utensils and implements of husbandry which may be upon the plantation at that time, together with fifty negro slaves of equal value in proportion to their number, with the number and value of my other slaves (except those bequeathed to my daughters) to him and his heirs forever, and in case my wife should marry or die before my son John arrives to the age of twenty one

years as aforesaid, it is my will and desire that this bequest to my said son George, shall take effect immediately after that time.

Item, I give and bequeath to my son John Minge when he shall arrive to the age of twenty one years all the rest and residue of my estate not before mentioned both real and personal to him and his heirs forever. I also give and bequeath to my said son John at the death of his mother all the lands and slaves lent to her for life or such of the slaves and the increase as shall be then living together with such of the stocks and furniture which shall be likewise left, at that time, to him my said son and his heirs for ever, and in case my wife shall marry or die before he comes of age, it is my will and desire that the bequest to him as aforesaid shall take effect immediately thereafter.

Item, In case either of my sons shall die under age and without issue, then I give and bequeath the part of my estate given to him so dying, unto the survivor and his heirs forever, and if both of them die under age and without issue as aforesaid, in that case I give both their parts of my estate to be equally divided between my two daughters Rebecca and Anne to them and their heirs forever, and further if either of my daughters should die under age and unmarried, then I give the part of my estate given to her so dying, unto the survivor and her heirs forever, and if both of them should die under age and unmarried then I give both their parts to my sons John and George equally to be divided to them and their heirs forever.

Item, My will and meaning farther is that if my wife should marry or die before my daughters' fortunes can be raised by the rents of my Carolina estate, or so much of them as will be sufficient to bring in money sufficient by the interest thereof to maintain and educate them in a genteel manner until they marry or come of age respectively, in that case I desire the deficiency may be made good out of the profits of my sons' estate in equal proportion.

And lastly I constitute and appoint my beloved wife Christiana Minge and my friend and kinsman Freeman Walker executors of this my last will and testament, and my desire is that the

said Freeman Walker be furnished with a horse out of my estate to do the necessary business upon towards the execution of this my will. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixteenth day of May one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine.

David Minge Seal

Sealed, published and declared,
in presence of
Mord: Debnam, Tom Harwood, James New.

Whereas since the making my last will and testament I have had another daughter born, and consequently no provision made for her Therefore I give and bequeath unto her my said daughter Judith Bray the sum of five hundred pounds to be paid her in gold or silver or the depreciation to be made good in current money, and in order to raise the said sum I do hereby charge the estate given by my said Will to my two sons John and George Minge with the payment of the same in proportion to the value of the said estates; I also give and bequeath to my said daughter Judith Bray two negroes out of my said sons parts in the same proportion as above mentioned to her my said daughter and her heirs forever.

Item I give and bequeath to Sarah Lorton and Margaret Ross each of them a young negro Girl, Lucy to be one and other to be as near her age as possible, to be chosen by my wife, to them the said Sarah and Margaret and their heirs forever.

I desire that the negroes given to my daughter Judith Bray may be as near the ages of those given to my other daughters by my will as can be conveniently chosen.

It is my desire that this writing may not defeat or destroy my will, but be annexed to, and taken as part thereof. In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal the twenty first day of February one thousand seven hundred and eighty one.

David Minge Seal

Sealed and delivered in presence of us Thomas Harwood, Ben: Edmondson, John Harwood.

At a Court for Charles City County the seventh day of November 1781. The aforewritten last will and testament of David Minge deceased was in open Court proved by the oaths of Thomas Harwood and James New two of the witnesses thereto; a codicil to the said will annexed was also proved by the oaths of Thomas Harwood and John Harwood witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded and are truly recorded. And upon the motion of Christiana Minge executrix therein named who made oath thereto according to Law, certificate is granted her for obtaining a probat thereof in due form she giving security. Whereupon she together with John Tyler, William Christian, Henry Armistead, and William Green Munford her securities, entered into and acknowledged their bond in the penalty of fifteen hundred thousand pounds current money, with such condition as the law in this case directs. Teste Mord: Debnam C. C. A copy teste Wyatt Walker C. C. A copy teste Ant^{y} Robinson C. C. D. C. W.

TYLER FAMILY OF ESSEX, SPOTSYLVANIA AND CAROLINE COUNTIES.

In the records of the General Court preserved in the Virginia Historical Society, it is stated that John Smith, of "Purton," in Gloucester county, Va., was agent, in 1674, for Mr. Richard Tyler, of London, who had lands there by the courtesy of England. It was probably this Richard Tyler, or his son, of the same name, that was found living in Essex county, Va., in 1691.

1. RICHARD[1] TYLER married Susannah, and his will was proved in Essex county in 1734. He had issue named in his will: (2) *Richard,* (3) *John,* (4) *William,* (5) Mary, married Captain James Boughan, justice and sheriff of Essex county; (6) Susannah.

2. RICHARD[2] TYLER (Richard[1]) lived in Essex county, where he was a justice of the peace, major of the militia, etc. He made